



## Beginnings of a season

Above, sophomore Rod Elkins works out in shorts and T-shirt as the Heels opened practice two weeks ago. Above right, reserve back Jesse Adams holds a young fan at Picture Day. At right, Chuck Sharpe passes as he gets pressure from Calvin Daniels (93) and Lawrence Taylor (98).



# Sharpe injury dims Carolina preseason

By DAVID POOLE  
Assistant Sports Editor

The biggest question mark about the 1980 North Carolina football team was erased Saturday morning. It was replaced with an ellipsis.

The battle for the starting quarterback job between Burlington junior Chuck Sharpe and Greensboro sophomore Rod Elkins had been close since spring practice. But the battle ended at the Tar Heels' first full scrimmage of the fall when Sharpe tore the medial collateral ligament in his left knee. Sharpe was to have surgery on the knee Sunday and will miss the entire 1980 season.

"I am especially sorry for Chuck because he has worked so hard to get ready for this season," said UNC coach Dick Crum.

The injury, coming just two weeks prior to the season opener against Furman, clouds what had been a bright preseason for the Tar Heels. It had been a preseason characterized by guarded optimism, with players and coaches expressing excitement and eagerness about the coming year.

Fan interest in the defending Gator Bowl champion Tar Heels had been high, but most of the people connected with the program had been working to put the

memory of the Gator Bowl behind and get on with the challenges ahead.

"It's a compliment to be picked to win the Atlantic Coast Conference," Crum said, "but someone has to be picked every year. I think the victory in the bowl game was an influencing factor in that."

Before the injury to Sharpe, both he and Elkins had said the duel for the top post had made them better players. Wednesday, Crum told members of the media that Sharpe had the edge over Elkins, primarily because of experience. But, Crum added, Elkins steadily had been closing the gap and the possibility existed that the two would share time running the team.

But that option is no longer open, and Elkins has been thrust into the starting role. What had been a pleasant problem for Crum—choosing between two good quarterbacks—has become an unpleasant headache. Elkins is inexperienced, having run only three plays for the varsity as a freshman. The inexperience at quarterback is compounded by the fact that Elkin's backup is a freshman, Scott Stankavage, from Furlong, Pa.

The loss of Sharpe, though critical, may not be catastrophic. "Rod (Elkins) doesn't have much

experience, but we have great confidence in him," Crum said. "He has done a very good job this fall."

Earlier, when the fight for the top job was still on, Elkins had said, "The offense seems to feel comfortable with either of us. They feel confident and that's the most important thing."

Prior to the loss of Sharpe, the biggest concern in the Tar Heel camp was the mental preparedness of this season's football team. Crum has repeatedly blamed 1979's midseason slump on a lapse of intensity and had emphasized the mental aspect to his players this year.

"We have really looked at last season," All-ACC tight end Mike Chatham said. "We got off to a 4-0 start and that was such a turnaround from the previous year. We just got too satisfied with our performances."

Ironically, most of the preseason concern over the injuries was given to tailback "Famous" Amos Lawrence. Lawrence enters 1980 with a chance to become only the second back in NCAA history (after Tony Dorsett) to gain more than 1,000 yards in four seasons.

Lawrence, a senior from Norfolk, See HEELS on page B-3

## Setting goals and stalking the Heisman

Even when Amos Lawrence was scampering for 411 yards in one game at Lake Taylor High School in Norfolk, Va., his goals for the future could only be described as very modest.

He says he never thought much about attending college until his last few years of high school, when his coaches began to push him toward further education after college football scouts started making Norfolk one of their favorite hangouts.

Lawrence's first goal was to earn a scholarship. If he hadn't gotten one, he says he probably would have ended up somewhere like Fort Benning or Fort Bragg.

"I never really thought that much about college," he says. "I always said that if I didn't get a scholarship, I'd go into the (military) service."

Pity the barracks that would have faced Lawrence's platoon in a game of touch football.

been doing for three seasons. The Heisman Trophy crosses my mind a whole lot, but it's not something I'm depending on."

Lawrence says he's not hyping himself for the Heisman because of criticism he expects he would receive should he talk bluntly and then not win. "If I don't win, I really don't need the criticism from the fans or whatever."

The Carolina Sports Information Department, and Rick Brewer, its director, have not prepared flashy pamphlets touting Lawrence for the Heisman honors. Certainly, Lawrence is well-represented in photos throughout the 1980 football brochure, but his picture shares the cover of the guide with that of offensive guard Ron Wooten, another All-American candidate.

### Bill Fields

Inside the brochure, Lawrence's profile begins: "If he can stay free of injuries, this young man is capable of winning the Heisman Trophy..."

In that sentence, Lawrence's career at Carolina is almost summarized. Through all his yards and touchdowns, nagging injuries to his ankles, shoulder and groin have kept Lawrence from reaching his potential.

In fact, no one knows what Lawrence might really accomplish on the football field if he stays healthy. Brewer and head coach Dick Crum, discussing Lawrence's sophomore and junior seasons, noted that in the 11 games he was "perfectly healthy," Lawrence gained more than

2,000 yards.

Lawrence is the most frustrated of all. "Ain't no telling really," he says when asked one of the season's favorite questions, "What can you do if you're healthy all season?" "If I stay healthy all year, I've got a pretty good chance at the Heisman."

"It's very frustrating when you get the little nagging injuries. Those are the ones that hurt you the most. You can go somewhat, but there's always the chance of the nagging injury recurring again."

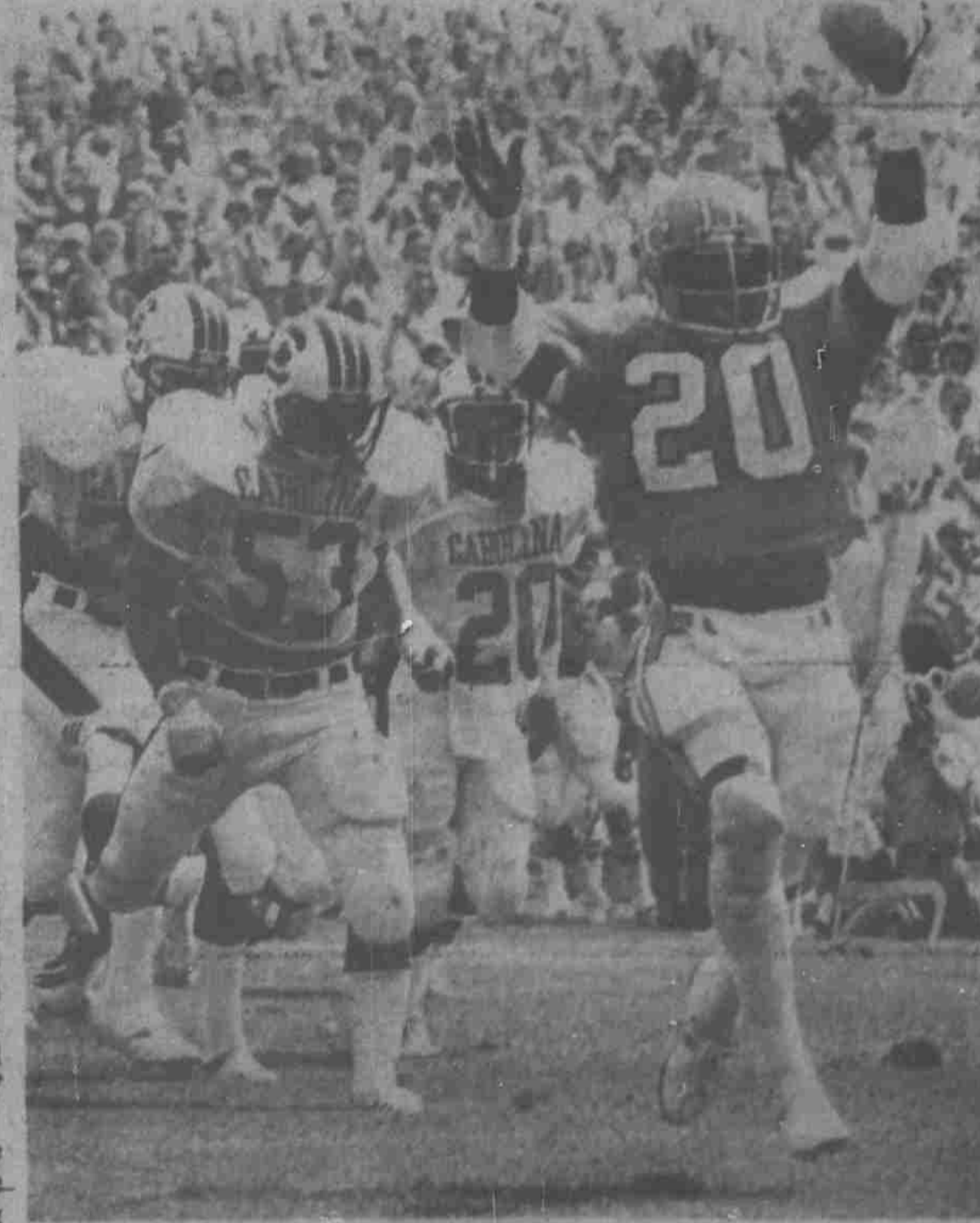
Not only have Lawrence's injuries been a popular topic the last three years, but so has his attitude. When he was slowed down in five games the middle of last season because of a groin pull, there were spectators and writers who questioned whether he was injured.

Lawrence became sullen after the loss to Wake Forest—when the injury happened—and told reporters "No comment" when they approached him after the game.

Last week, Lawrence admitted he doesn't particularly care for fans and others who love him when he's on and chastize him when he's less than spectacular. "A running back like me—I'm not trying to brag, but I have a lot of ability and I know what I can do. When I got the groin pull against Wake Forest last year I got a lot of criticism."

As the 1980 season beckons, Lawrence says he wishes more people would be more understanding, and not become Doubting Thomases when he says, for example, his leg is

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Lawrence runs past frustrated South Carolina defense ...says 2,000 yards not an unrealistic goal

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# Eligibility scandals rock college sports

But Carolina officials work to make term 'student-athlete' accurate

By DAVID POOLE  
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### A Sports Analysis

There is no factor more basic to a college sports program than the eligibility of its student-athletes. A school can have the finest coaches, facilities, physical development programs and athletic administration and still have a dismal program if its student-athletes do not remain eligible.

Suddenly, academic eligibility for college athletes has become an issue of national importance. Two weeks ago, the presidents and chancellors of the schools in the Pacific 10 Conference ruled the football teams at Southern California, UCLA, Oregon, Oregon State and Arizona State ineligible to play in bowl games this year. The action came after a summer of revelations regarding falsification of transcripts and phony transfers of credit that brought under scrutiny the practices of some of the nation's most respected

institutions.

The allegations have not reached Chapel Hill and, as far as anyone knows, there are no such goings on at the University of North Carolina. But, officials here are aware not only of the scandals but also of questions about the balance between the academic and athletic aspects in the life of a student-athlete.

"It would be foolish for me to say that we aren't interested in keeping athletes eligible," said Paul Hoolahan, assistant to the athletic director for athletics and fitness. "The bottom line is keeping them eligible."

It is Hoolahan's job to try to help athletes at UNC maintain eligibility to participate in the sport for which they were recruited. To achieve that goal, Hoolahan has set up a program that first tries to assess an athlete's basic math, language and reading skills and then attempts to help him improve in areas where he needs help.

Freshmen, for example, must attend study halls, as must any student-athlete whose grade

point average is below 2.0. There are study management programs that try to help students develop skills and budget time—time which is scarce for athletes who participate in a sport that takes up as much time as football or basketball.

But Hoolahan says all the programs in the world won't help unless the student-athlete is willing to make an effort. "We can profess a philosophy," Hoolahan said. "We can try to establish a structure to promote that philosophy—that a young person should be a student first and an athlete second. But there are those who will do just enough to stay eligible, just like there are those in the student body who do just enough to get by."

"These guys (athletes) learn the ropes, just like anybody else. They know which courses are predictably easier," Hoolahan added. "We try to encourage them away from that. We try to raise the student-athlete's vision and make him a little more far-sighted."

"If we could translate the energy that some

of these guys have on the practice field into the classroom," Hoolahan said, "we'd have a lot of straight A students."

UNC Athletic Director John Swofford agrees, saying schools must work to make the term "student-athletes" an accurate one.

"We must forever keep in mind the main purpose of the University," Swofford said. "That purpose is to bring about the positive development of students while they are here."

"One of our foremost goals here is for a student-athlete to leave here with a degree," Swofford said. "If it takes them one or two years after their eligibility runs out, I think we have an obligation to support that, as long as they make an effort, too."

Monte Kiffin, the new head football coach at N.C. State, says he stresses academics to his players. "Those bowl watches and those trophies are going to get dusty someday. A college education lasts a lifetime," Kiffin said.

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